

Ser. No. 10/528,506
Appl. of Masanori OGAWA, et al.
Amd in response to OA dated April 3, 2007
Atty Dkt. 2710/74093

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 remain in the case.

Applicants have carefully studied the Office Action and the applied prior art, and are amending the sole independent claim as well as dependent claims 2 and 3 in an effort to clarify the invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the recitation of rubber-like material in claim 1 is supported by the original specification and is made definite by the recitation of suitable rubber-like compositions at paragraph [0059] in the published application (US 2006/0035058 A1).

Claim 1 now recites that at least the core member has a good heat resistance and moldability and can be easily manufactured into a core member having a complex shape. For support, *see e.g.*, paragraphs [0005], [0061], [0088], and [0105]. Claim 1 now also includes the subject matter of previously presented claim 3.

Claim 2 is amended hereby to recite a group of compositions useful as the rubber-like material recited in claim 1, and to remove the duplicative recitation of core materials that are already recited in claim 1.

Claim 3 is amended hereby to recite processes by which the core member is made into a complex shape, and to remove the duplicative recitation that is now moved to claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that not every limitation of claim 1 is found in any one of the applied references. For example, it is submitted that none of the applied

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references as understood teaches the materials recited in claim 1 in a combination and configuration that would ensure both good heat resistance and moldability and can be easily manufactured into a core member having a complex shape as recited in claim 1.

In **Sanmartin** U.S. Patent 4,937,125 it appears that core 2 is an extruded material. See column 5 at lines 22-23. Applicants were unable to find disclosure in Sanmartin that would make clear that core 2 has both good heat resistance and moldability for manufacture into a complex shape. In **Therien** U.S. Patent No. 4,567,076 applicants were unable to find a disclosure of how core 8 is made or whether it is has both good heat resistance and modability. In **Jordan** U.S. Patent No. 5,791,118 applicants also were unable to find a disclosure of how core 13 is made or whether it is has both good heat resistance and modability. In **Moeller** U.S. Patent 3,007,834 it appears that a honeycomb stack 10 is formed by first forming flat sheets and subsequently slitting the sheets into webs 12 that are later expanded into honeycomb structures 20 and 30. See column 2 at lines 27-32 and 45-56. Applicants could not find disclosure in Moeller of a core material that has both good heat resistance and moldability to be easily manufactured into a complex shape.

The dependent claims, which incorporate all of the subject matter of claim 1, add limitations that also contribute to patentability but need not be discussed in detail in view of the discussion of claim 1 above.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this

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paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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